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THE
Consolidated School
In North Dakota



PREPARED BY
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Member of State Board of Education
State Inspector of Consolidated, Graded
and Rural Schools for the State of North
Dakota

ISSUED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF NORTH DAKOTA
DECEMBER 1915.



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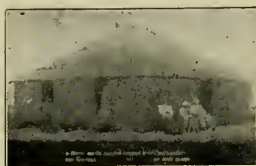
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No. 1—The Red River Ox-Cart



No. 2—The N. P. Express



No. 3—The Sod Shanty on the Claim



No. 4—The Splendid Home on the Farm



No. 5—The One-Room Rural School



No. 6—The Open Country Consolidated School

View five is of a one-room rural school located in one of the oldest and richest communities in the state. It has been here for 28 years. View six is of the Caledonia Consolidated School in Traill County. There are now 333 consolidated schools, 123 being open country; but there could be all together over 1,500. However, progress is going on and soon the one-room rural school will disappear as did the ox-cart and the sod shack.

The Consolidated School

Introduction

"Promote then as objects of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened."
—Washington.

The consolidated school is the school that serves the general educational needs of a fair-sized rural community. It is immaterial as to how it is formed, whether it be by petition, election, or common consent. The great opportunity of this school is to provide better school work in the grades and better high school privileges for the country youth. It is the only school that can provide educational facilities that are as free and equal as those furnished to the city children. The problem to solve here is to unite the rural schools, where feasible, to form the central or consolidated school. It is a success everywhere.

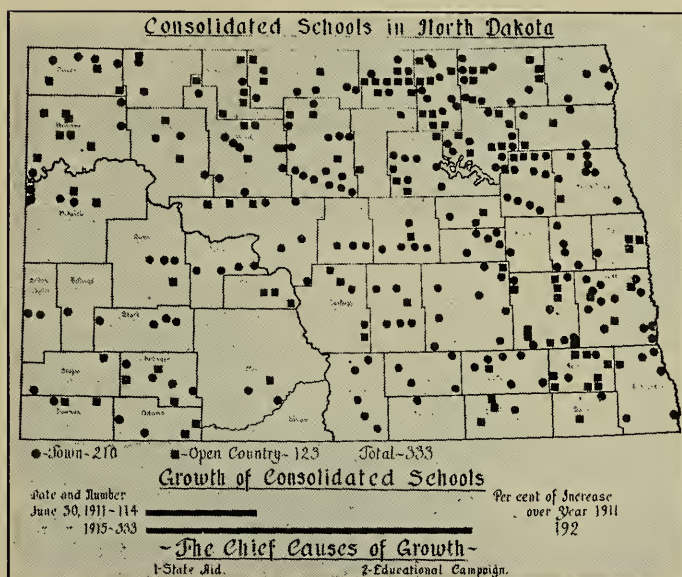
1. The Present Status

There are now 333 consolidated schools in the state, all counties being represented but one. Of this number 123 are open country consolidated schools and 210 are town consolidated. Four years ago last June there were 114 consolidated schools. This means an increase of over 200 during this period, being the greatest increase in the history of the state. This is due largely to the state aid grant and the educational campaign that has been carried on to promote their growth. The reader is referred to the table that gives the number of these schools and to the map that gives their location.

2. Table Showing Number and Kind of Consolidated Schools.

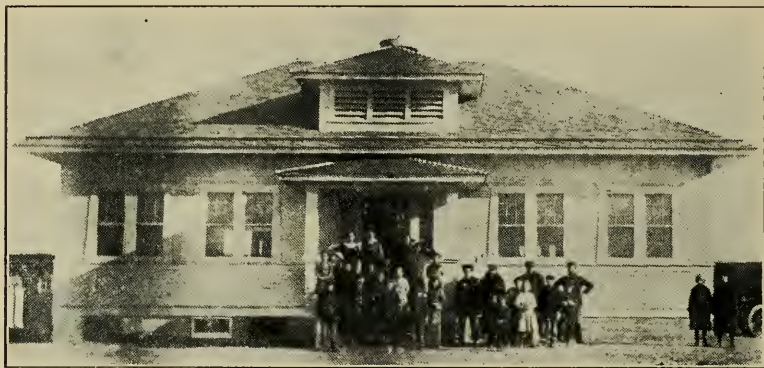
County	Open Country	Town	Total
Adams	2	2	4
Barnes	8	6	14
Benson	3	7	10
Billings	0	1	1
Bottineau	4	5	9
Bowman	2	1	3
Burke	2	1	3
Burleigh	3	2	5
Cass	3	12	15
Cavalier	7	8	15
Dickey	3	1	4
Divide	3	4	7
Dunn	1	3	4
Eddy	2	1	3
Emmons	0	5	5
Foster	0	5	5
Golden Valley	0	2	2
Grand Forks	1	7	8
Griggs	0	1	1
Hettinger	3	4	7
Kidder	1	5	6
LaMoure	1	6	7
Logan	0	4	4
McHenry	3	14	17
McIntosh	0	1	1
McKenzie	2	4	6
McLean	3	5	8
Mercer	0	4	4
Morton	1	2	3
Mountrail	2	3	5
Nelson	2	9	11
Oliver	3	0	3
Pembina	0	4	4
Pierce	1	1	2
Ramsey	7	8	15
Ransom	8	2	10
Renville	4	1	5
Richland	1	5	6
Rolette	8	4	12
Sargent	1	1	2
Sheridan	0	3	3
Slope	1	1	2
Stark	0	4	4
Steele	0	5	5
Stutsman	1	8	9
Towner	8	8	16
Traill	3	1	4
Walsh	2	3	5
Ward	5	8	13
Wells	1	5	6
Williams	7	3	10
Totals	123	210	333

3. The Consolidated School Map of North Dakota.



This map shows, among other things, that the greatest number of consolidated schools is still to be found in the northern counties, despite the fact that these counties are not the wealthiest and that they do not have the most favorable weather.

4. *A Few Consolidated Schools.*



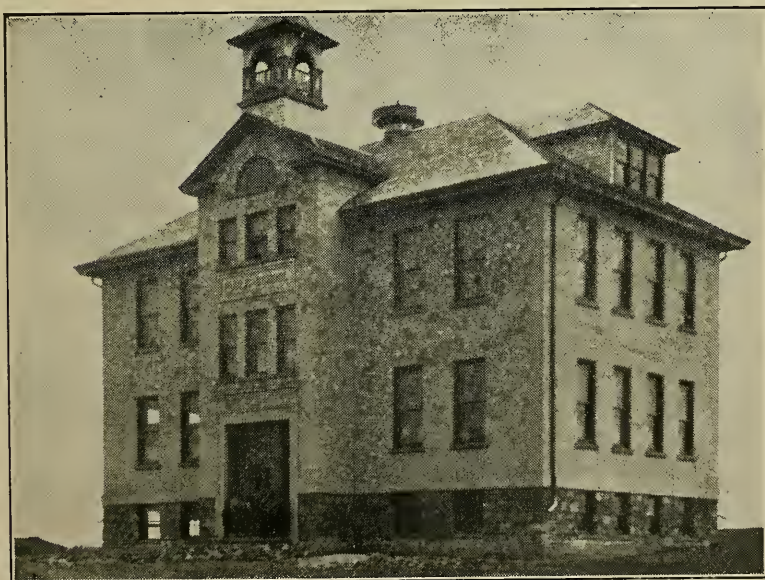
No. 1—The Cottonwood Open Country Consolidated School in Wells County. This was erected within the past year at a cost of about \$4,000. It is a two-room building with folding doors and full basement.



No. 2—The Thain Open Country Consolidated School in Morton County. It is a two-story, four-room building with full basement and cost about \$6,500. Like the one above, it reflects credit on the forward-looking people of the district.



No. 3—The Sutton Consolidated School in Griggs County. This is a brick building having four large rooms and a full basement. It was built last year and is a handsome structure.



No. 4—The Arnegard School in McKenzie County. This is similar to the one above and like it, is a credit to the progressive people of the community.

5. *The Benefits of the Consolidated School*

The benefits of the Consolidated School far out-weigh any disadvantages that may be involved in the system.

The Six Major Benefits of this School when compared with the One-Room Rural School are as follows:

(1) *Better Attendance*—A 9-months term with 90 per cent attendance instead of 7.5 months term with 65 per cent attendance as in the average rural school.

(2) *Better Teachers*—Well trained teachers teaching a good school in place of a poorly trained teacher keeping a poor rural school.

(3) *Better School Work in the Grades*—Three times the number completing the eighth grade and doing work of twice the quality when compared with rural school results.

(4) *Better High School Privileges*—Ten times the number of country pupils completing the high school and at one-fifteenth the cost to the individual patron when compared with the old rural school system.

(5) *Better Organization*—A teacher with three grades and 15 classes daily instead of six grades and 30 classes and 15 visits per year of a supervisor instead of two, as in the rural school.

(6) *Better Civic-Social Opportunities*—A good place for various Clubs, Literary Societies, Social Events, Athletic Contests, Lectures and Art Exhibits, which the rural school has not.

The Twenty-Five Benefits of the Consolidated School when Compared with the One-Room Rural School are the following:

(1) Increases the attendance.

(2) Makes the attendance more regular.

(3) Increases the enrollment.

(4) Keeps the older pupils in the school longer, giving a form of the continuation school.

(5) Provides high school privileges at one-third the cost to the community and one-fifteenth the cost to the individual patron.

(6) Makes possible the securing of better trained teachers.

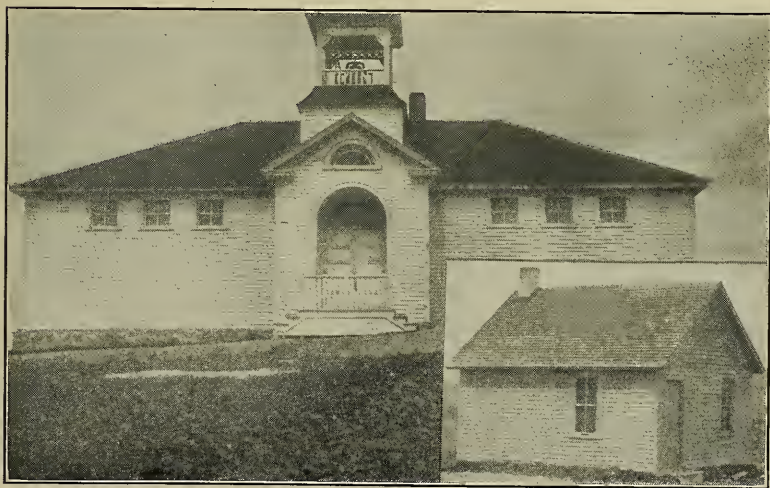
(7) Improves industrial conditions in the country, including improved roads and farms.

(8) Results in higher salaries for better trained teachers.

(9) Makes possible more and better grade school work.

(10) Enriches the civic-social life activities.

- (11) Conserves more largely the health and morals of the children.
- (12) Increases the number of eighth grade completions.
- (13) Provides adequate supervision.
- (14) Reduces truancy and tardiness.
- (15) Develops better school spirit.
- (16) Gives more time for recitations.
- (17) Increases the value of real estate.
- (18) Produces greater pride and interest in country life.
- (19) Prevents the drift to the larger towns and cities.
- (20) Brings more and better equipped buildings.
- (21) Eliminates the small weak school.
- (22) Creates a school of greater worth, dignity and usefulness.
- (23) Makes possible a more economical school.
- (24) Provides equal educational opportunities.
- (25) Gives much greater and better results in every way.



The "Teacherage" at the Currie Consolidated School in Rolette County.

This view shows the "Teacherage", that is, the teachers' home in connection with the Open Country Consolidated School. There are now 30 such homes in the state; many being made from the discarded one-room school-buildings. The "Teacherage" helps solve the problem of securing and holding well trained teachers in the open country.

6. Class Work in the Consolidated School

No. 1—Class in Agriculture in the Upham Consolidated School in McHenry

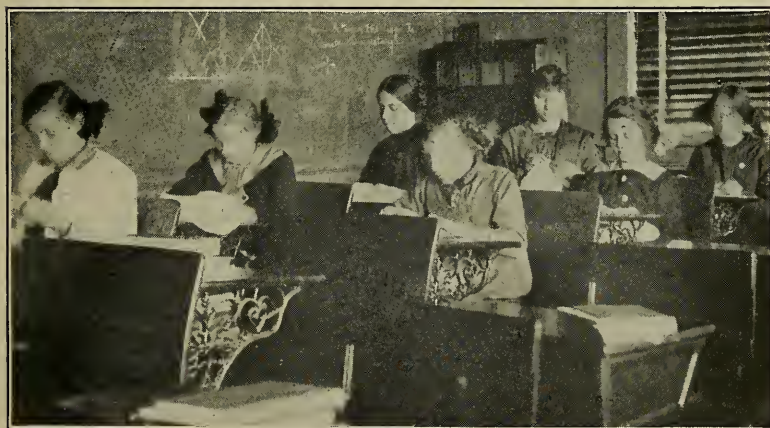


No. 2—Class in Music in the Moore Open Country Consolidated School in Ransom County

Very few of these pupils could have gone elsewhere to high school, but the consolidated school brought the high school to them; and thus these young lives are being ennobled and the citizenship of the state is being enriched in a way not possible in the old rural school. This orchestra shows one of the many valuable by-products of the Consolidated School.



No. 3—Class in Agriculture in the Logan Open Country Consolidated School in Grand Forks County.

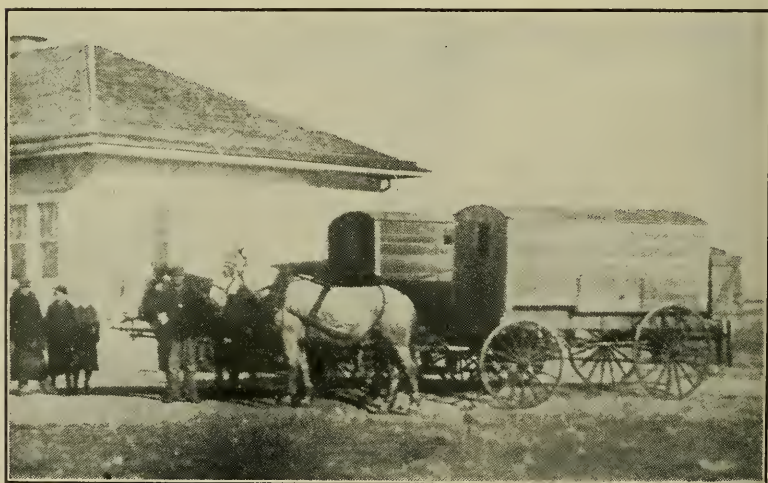


No. 4.—Class in Domestic Science in the Underwood Consolidated School in McLean County.

These views show how it is possible to bring the latest and best things in household and agricultural science to the people that it will benefit the most. These young country people have the chance, too, to learn something about tariff schedules and the opportunity to enrich their lives from the study of good music and art.

7. *Transportation*

The greatest objection to the consolidated school is the transportation. In this is involved the cost to the tax payer and hardship imposed upon the children. Over one thousand children have been interviewed by me upon this matter and there is yet to be the first case where any child would sooner go to the rural school than to the consolidated school, even though in the former instance he had to walk less than one-half mile to the little country school, while he may be compelled to ride six or seven miles to the consolidated school. By consulting the map or table, it will be seen that the northern counties lead in the number of consolidated schools, despite the fact that these counties average with the lowest temperature and coldest winter storms which would seem to refute the argument of hardship on account of inclement weather. Then, too, these are not the wealthiest counties in the state. In any case it is more humane to expose the horses to bad roads and inclement weather than it is to expose the children. As far as the cost is concerned this can be made very high or very low. When the private or family system is used, it costs \$16.28 per pupil per year, while if the public or bus system is used, it will average \$35.76 per pupil per year. In several of the schools the private system is the one used because it gives there the greatest satisfaction. In some, the combination of the two systems is used with much success while some prefer the public or bus system.



No. 1—Public transportation in Wells County. These are home-made busses, cost \$60 each, and are very serviceable. The private or family system of transportation, however, is usually the most satisfactory.

8. *The Cost*

The cheapest school when everything is considered is the consolidated school. For the consolidated school it costs 32 cents per pupil per day attended and for the rural school 35 cents. In the majority of cases the consolidated school provides high school privileges which the rural school cannot do. A consolidated school employing three teachers including a well qualified principal where the private system of transportation is used can be operated for about four mills more or \$3.20 more in taxes per quarter than it would take to operate the four one-room schools running separately; and when two teachers are employed it can be operated for less. If the public transportation is used these figures will be about three times as high; but it must be remembered that a higher grade of school work in the grades and high school privileges are provided for in this school, and which the one-room rural school cannot furnish. If the farmer sends his boy to the city high school, it will cost about \$150 more than if he keeps him at home. This for many is a prohibitive tax and besides the boy is not at home where he should be in these perilous years of adolescent boyhood. But with the consolidated school in the locality, these better graded school and high school privileges can be furnished for about one-fifteenth of the cost to the individual parent and one-third the cost to the community, and the boy is at home. Then besides it makes the non-resident land owner, the corporation, and the tax payer without family, contribute their share toward the development and perpetuity of the State. This is only just and fair, for the child is educated primarily for the State.



No. 2—Another phase of transportation. This is at the Marion School in LaMoore County. Automobiles are now used in several districts.

9. *A Few Facts Concerning Twenty-Five Open Country Consolidated Schools in North Dakota*

(1)	Total number of children enrolled.....	1,752
(2)	Average enrollment per school.....	70
(3)	Number schools doing high school work.....	18
(4)	Number pupils doing high school work.....	125
(5)	Number pupils transported at public expense.....	1,410
(6)	Number schools using public system of transportation.....	8
(7)	Number schools using private system.....	8
(8)	Number schools using combination of both systems.....	9
(9)	Average cost per year per child transported.....	\$25.00
(10)	Average salary per driver per month.....	\$55.00
(11)	Average longest drive one way in miles.....	6
(12)	Average drive one way in miles.....	4
(13)	Average area of district in sections.....	36
(14)	Average assessed valuation	\$120,000.00
	Lowest valuation \$80,000.00; highest \$180,000.00	
(15)	Average tax rate in mills.....	21
	Lowest tax rate 11 mills; highest 30 mills	
(16)	Average cost of school building.....	\$5,000.00
	Lowest cost \$2,500.00; highest \$12,500.00	
	After Consolidation:	
(17)	Average increase in tax rate in mills.....	6
(18)	Average increase in taxes per quarter section.....	\$5.00
(19)	Average increase in number of school days in term.....	30
(20)	Per cent of increase in length of term.....	20
(21)	Per cent of increase in enrollment.....	15
(22)	Per cent of increase in daily attendance.....	20
(23)	Per cent of increase in normal and college trained teachers.....	80
(24)	Per cent of increase in number doing eighth grade work.....	100
(25)	Per cent of increase in number doing high school work.....	300

10. *A Few More Consolidated Schools*



No. 1—The Brooklyn Consolidated School in Williams County.



No. 2—The Eden Valley Consolidated School in Renville County.

These views show different types of the Open Country Consolidated School. Both serve the entire township, and high school work is done in both. They are splendid examples of what courage and intelligent rural leadership can do.



No. 3—The Grey Open Country Consolidated School in Cavalier County. This is a brick building with two main rooms and full basement providing rooms for the industrial courses. It was erected within the past year and supplanted a two-room frame building.



No. 4—The Sauter Open Country Consolidated School in Walsh County. This was also erected within the past year. It is a three-room building with full basement. By use of folding partitions the three rooms can be used as one large assembly room. Both serve the entire township. They are splendid monuments to the good judgment of the good people who made them possible.

11. *How Promoted.*

The promotion of the consolidated school calls for investigation and publicity, untiring effort and courageous leadership on the part of all employed in the system. There is no such thing as urging the organization of the consolidated school too strongly or striving too strenuously to further its growth. It is the duty of all to do their utmost in this matter, for in doing so several thousand farm boys and girls will be provided with adequate school privileges that would otherwise never be so provided. The teacher who is on the ground is the one who can do much to develop and guide the sentiment in favor of the consolidated school. This can be done by talking with individual taxpayers and patrons, and with the children in and out of school hours. Then the county superintendent can assist in this matter in several different ways. All the available literature should be secured by the teacher and superintendent, which should be furnished to the leaders in the community. The county superintendent is the one, however, who must direct its promotion on a large scale with such co-operation as the state can furnish. Before buildings are erected and equipped, in fact before the vote is taken on the subject, a committee of the board with the county superintendent should visit two or three consolidated schools. This will give the movement greater consideration and weight in the minds of those on the doubtful list. Then there should be meetings of patrons and taxpayers to discuss the benefits of the consolidated school and kindred topics. Always there should be the ideal of adequate rural school privileges held up before the rural patron with the consolidated school as the best means to realize this ideal.

12. *How Organized*

There are several ways to organize the consolidated school. These are:

(1) Section 1190 of the 1915 School Laws provides for the consolidation of schools in the district. It takes a majority vote. This is the method for those in counties where the township system prevails.

(2) Section 1194 of the 1915 School Laws provides for a sort of partnership consolidated school in which two or more districts may unite to support the consolidated school. This is a good method for either town or country.

(3) Section 1342 of the 1915 School Laws provides that the board shall provide transportation for those living more than two and

one-quarter miles from the nearest school. This is another way to organize a consolidated school in the town or rural community.

(4) Article 9 of the 1915 School Laws deals with the organization of special districts; and as there is no limit to the territory that may be incorporated, the consolidated school can thus be organized. This is where the villages and towns located in the corner or side of the district can easily and properly organize a consolidated school. In this connection it may be said that all village and town schools should be consolidated schools.



No. 5—The Rhame Consolidated School in Bowman County. It is a modern brick structure of four rooms and full basement, and the school is classified as First Class Graded Consolidated. It would be a credit to a much larger community.

13. *Athletic Activities in the Consolidated School*



No. 1—The Indoor Basketball Team in the Uxbridge Open Country Consolidated School in Barnes County.

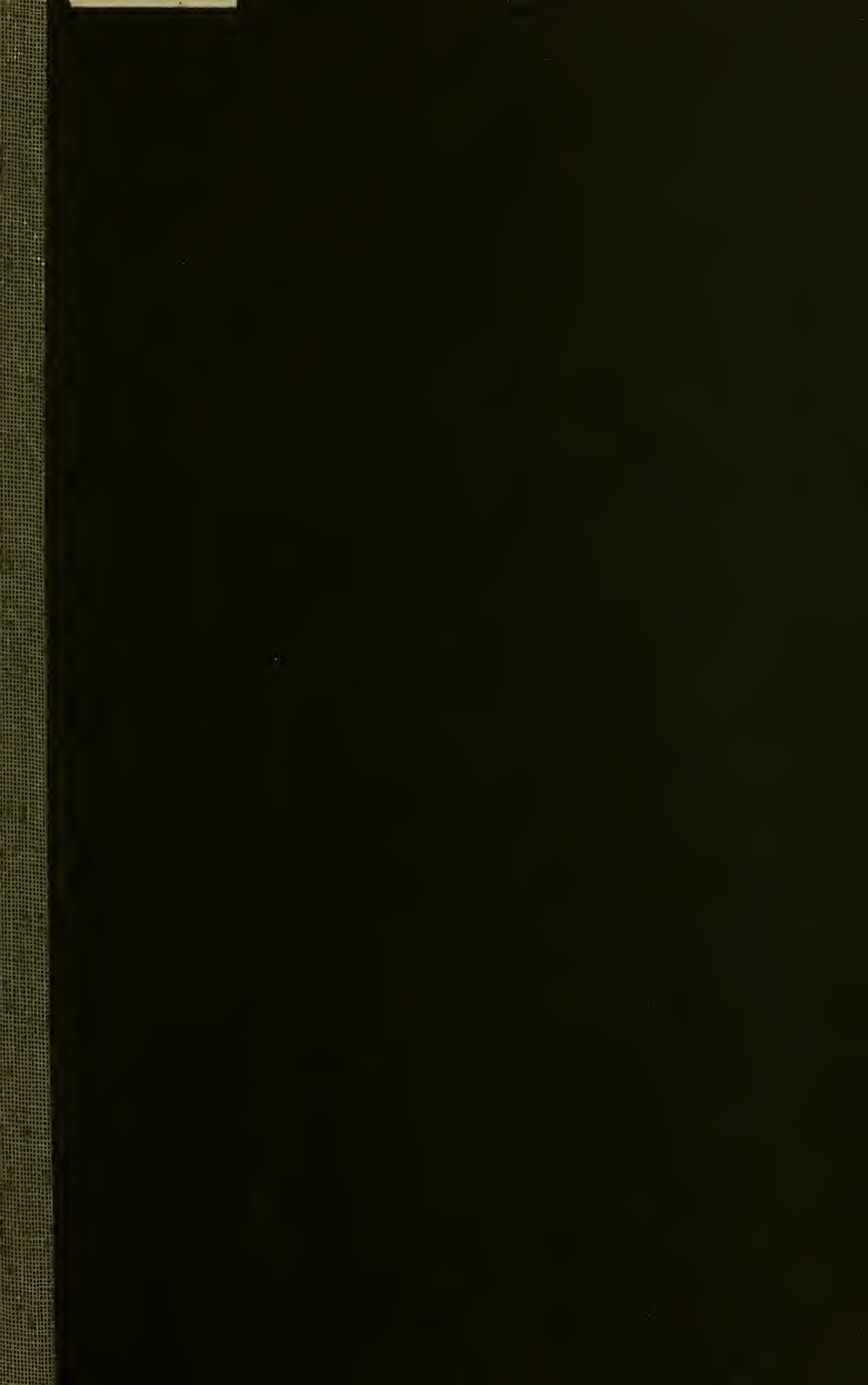


No. 2—The Outdoor Basketball Game in the Underwood Consolidated School in McLean County.

These views show that athletics will keep the country boys as well as town boys in school. These boys have been well and wisely cared for by patriotic-minded parents. Both principals are with their boys as they should be.

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THE PAGE PRINTERIE, Inc.,
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